

This Troubled World

By V.:G.:H.:Frater Cede Deo

When we have journeyed a little along the Path of Return, it is not uncommon that among the various doubts which assail us in our yet inexperienced state is that our work is self-centered and is not directed to alleviating the pains of the world in the physical sense. The fact that we are becoming more sensitive to those pains as a result of our own growth escapes us, but feelings of separation from the problems and a sense of selfishness may affect us.

Such a condition can lead to frantic historical research for the factors leading to the perpetuation of human ills, especially religious ones, the avid reading of current accounts of horrors and absorption in the details of social injustice and disorder. Our attention can become directed and focussed in this way even when we know that it is inevitable that our own subjective processes will be adversely affected. To avoid this consequence, must we then shut out such awareness and experience a still greater sense of separation which again has its subjective repercussions?

To make sure that we have the greatest discomfiture, every generation adds to its pondering the urgency of restoring the former order of things.

Within the Mystery Teachings, there is no lack of deep caring for humanity and realization that every soul which sees life only through the darkness of outward appearances can experience naught but inner anguish and to alleviate its fears, seeks continuous distraction from them. For this reason we are enjoined not to look on outward behavior, but to give compassionate recognition of the troubled and fearful condition which is at the root of the matter.

At all times man has seen life as being full of trouble and a source of fear, even when every possible social and material advantage is enjoyed. Such is the nature of darkened understanding.

That which has gone has gone forever and whatever endeavors are made to restore the past cannot succeed. Each day is a new day of "becomingness," even if mistakes and failures take place during the learning process. All of manifestation is sustained each day with Adonai -- God made manifest -- and the miracle of life is shared in all bodies whether mineral, vegetable, animal or human. There are profound practical implications of the grasp of this truth: the seeing with new eyes, speaking with a different mind, and more still, acting in a wholly different manner. This new seeing must precede any real ability to do things for others, as he who would heal must have spiritual health.

Those who have found a way to greater fulfillment and service to life often give pointers to that way by simple and practical suggestions. It is a wise person who can take up the suggestion and then find the Magic of Light doing its own work. To grasp the idea and retain it in attention is all that is needed. The life of today will express and grow in that attention and it can continue to develop into a true and vital capacity. Thus, instead of being depressed and despondent, our attention is directed to be cheerful and to dwell on all things beautiful and happy, as it is too destructive to do otherwise. Instead of being able to help where help is needed, a consciousness not centered at the highest level is unable to give that help. Thus, a true unselfishness is involved in sincere spiritual aspiration – the kind of dedication to Life where we consciously cooperate with Deity to bring into function our latent capacities to express life more fully and beautifully, especially today when rapid change faces us all. Is this not an urgency? Is there any other way?

Of course we each do what we can in social responsibilities and give as much as we can to the envelope appeals, knowing that many beautiful and dedicated souls must be supported as they work in the field. It remains, however, that to understand consciousness and to go through periods of training are necessary so that life can be lifted, and a very plain declaration of this way is truly the purpose of this work.

It was the magic-working Chasidim of Poland in the early 1700s who would say to their terribly unhappy and oppressed hearers that nothing shuts the gates of heaven as does a brooding and melancholy mind. Joy, on the other hand, opens the way to God's grace. No child is born except through pleasure and joy and by the same token, if one wishes his supplications and longings to bear fruit, he must offer them with pleasure and joy.

In the quest for deeper initiation it is a mistake to narrow the field by which it may be experienced, as this would be quite contrary to the concept of the unity of all life. Very high levels of relationship with the inner side of life, sometimes called the Inner School, apply to ever so many souls who often appear to be men of the world or sometimes serving humanity in a visible way. None of these are materialists; that is how they are recognized. Others have the profound privilege of schooling in such an Order as this. The inner awarenesses which are being built most profoundly have to do with our present and future ability to fit into the unity of all life in a wholesome and creative way. In this lies the answer to the false appearance of self-centered ways.

The most inhibiting factor of genuine spiritual growth lies in failure to seriously take up the practical suggestions made by those who have gone ahead on the pathway. For example, if one was brooding and melancholy,

it might be said that factors leading to it were good enough excuses. Every person who has become a happy creative soul was first most unhappy. They had to learn how to be cheerful. The Chasidim did just that. The very beneficent nature of the One Life Power will express in terms of the attention given to it.

Of course, attention means that there is also a basic desiring. This is why the KEYS are given in the Symbolism of Tarot and those KEYS are meant to be used to help formulate specific ideas at the highest level. Key 0 ever communicates the adventure of life. Key 1 assists the ability to hold attention. Key 12 has to do with the reversal of the fixed mental patterns and Key 15 assists in seeing things as they really are and not according to outward appearances, and the release from bondage leads to a rich mirth of the awakened state.

Our active participation in alleviating the unhappiness of this world by learning how to be happy has its ultimate reward in possessing True Happiness.